Utah Wireless Integrated Network

Technology Steering Committee

MEETING MINUTES
Friday, March 18, 2005
10:00 am - noon
Logan City PD
290 North 100 West

Attendance:

Jake Hunt (UCAN) [Co-Chair]	Tim Cornia (State DPS)
Doug Chandler (State ITS) [Co-Chair]	Randy Auman (Logan City PD)
Nancy McConnell (State ITS)	Rich Hendricks (Logan City PD)
John Rogers (Wasatch County)	Floyd Ritter (State ITS)
Bryan Low (Logan PD)	* Steve Proctor (UCAN)
Dennis Spraggins (Cache County SO)	*Gary Eubanks (State ITS)
Carter Frandsen (Utah National Guard)	*Merv Gustin (Duchesne SO)
Eric Huntsman (Utah National Guard)	* Al Holland (Salt Lake City)
Dave Raab (UTNG/MARS)	*Steve Whittaker (Salt Lake City)
Steve Carver (UTNG/MAS)	*Jeff Dial (City of St. George)
Paul Chavez (Utah National Guard)	*Rick Bailey (San Juan County)
Mart Gardner (State Corrections)	*Boyd Webb (State ITS)
Dave Nance (Tremonton PD)	*Lloyd Johnson (State DNR)
Phil Bates (State DPS)	

Teleconferenced

I. Approval of Minutes

The January 2005 minutes were approved without change.

II. Wireless Ethernet Project

Tim Cornia reported on a University of Utah document about Wireless Networking. Tim's Wireless Ethernet sub committee has been dealing primarily with Chris Hessing of the UofU. More specifically, the document is a concept paper that addresses "meshed authentication".

Example: DPS deploys 802.11 hotspots and a radius concentrator for authentication; the Utah National Guard deploys 802.11 and decides to use a different radius server. We create an agreement between UNG and DPS to allow radius servers to communicate with each other. This would allow each agency to authenticate on the other's hotspots.

802.1x is the preferred way to go. There is a freeware client that DPS is looking into. Tim's Wireless Ethernet subcommittee is just beginning to work on a shared authentication network with the University of Utah. The UofU has already successfully deployed a campus-wide shared authentication network-mainly used for students and faculty. Tim is inviting other agencies to work together in a pilot effort to expand on the University's successes. Salt Lake City PD is one of the agencies that will be participating in the pilot.

DPS would like to use patrol cars as 802.11 hotspots. The new 700MHz mobile data network could be used as a 'back-haul' connection to users of the mobile hot-spot.

The kick-off of the meshed network pilot may be as early as next week. Tim asked all interested agencies to contact him if they are interested in participating. There is a grant opportunity that Utah is a front-runner in applying for.   The pilot is not limited to law enforcement, but will hopefully include EMS, Fire etc.

With respect to future technologies such as 4.9GHz and WiMAX, introductory prices are high, but if the authentication process is working, these other technologies could be easily deployed over the top of a successful statewide authentication network.

III.   **Mobile Data Project Team**
Nancy McConnell led the discussion of the mobile data project. Nancy is a Product Manager with State ITS. Nancy handed out a map showing the location of current and immediate-future 700MHz mobile data deployments. The Tri-County area has 5 of the seven sites up and operational. There have been 91 mobile units ordered for that area, in addition to those the UHP will be using.

More mobile data product information is available at the ITS web site:
http://its.utah.gov/productsservices/wirelessnetwork/wirelessdata/mobiledata.htm

Several agencies have been testing system coverage, and several applications have been successfully tested.

There are some issues with Quality Assurance. There have been instances of hardware failures from the factory, but these issues are being addressed quickly as they present themselves.

Nancy noted that there is about to be a second round of Homeland Defense funding for the Mobile Data network. Site deployments and regional coverages are being prioritized now, and agencies are invited to provide input as to which sites need to be raised in priority. John Rogers with Wasatch County said that they would be interested in having coverage.

There are several areas yet to be converted from UHF to 700MHz. Planning for these areas is moving forward.

Steve Proctor asked about how quality assurance issues are being addressed. Floyd Ritter said that most of the issues are software/firmware related, and are being addressed. Doug Chandler noted that pre-deployment testing is being looked at, i.e. what do we need to be doing as we un-box the radios before installing them at the sites?

Steve Proctor asked what the rate covers. Nancy said the rate does not cover infrastructure that Homeland Defense has paid for, but only the costs for circuits and maintenance.

IV.   **Omni-Link**
The UCAN infrastructure has now been moved over to the OmniLink software. Logan City, Box Elder County, Grand County, and San Juan County, are scheduled to be connected to OmniLink this year. Funding for these connections is being identified.

Randy Auman asked about connectivity with Idaho. Phil said that Idaho is in a state of flux right now. They are putting in a new system in the Boise area. Motorola is doing the project for Idaho, and is working with both Idaho and Utah on how the connections can best be made. The new Idaho infrastructure is being provided by the state. Depending on how things go, Utah will either need to work with the state, or the local dispatch centers in Idaho.

V. Training

DPS has had turnover in their education center. Captain Anderson is over that now. They are just finishing a contract with MultiMedia to provide Internet training opportunities. OmniLink, 802.11 and other technologies may have training available via the new program.

VI. 700MHz Regional Planning Committee Update

At the request of Steve Proctor, Boyd Webb gave an update of the planning process and the seminar he recently attended. The plan is in the final tuning stage. Mainly we need to get adjacent Regional coordination letters. The plan is rapidly coming to a point where we can submit it to the FCC. The FCC will publish the plan for 30 days, then accept comment for 15 days after that. Depending on comments, the FCC will accept the submission of the plan. It is taking between 4-8 months for the FCC to approve plans once accepted. Boyd assumes it will take at least another month to get letters from the surrounding regions.

In Boyd's St. Louis seminar, he learned that before we can get authorization to start using the plan, a couple of us have to be sent back to CAPRAD training for certification. In previous RPC meetings, Boyd Webb, Bryan Low, and possibly Tim Cornia, were selected to receive this training. The next training is available in Nashville, on May 3-4.

4.9 GHz plans. The FCC originally required that any region wanting to submit a plan, do so by June of last year. Utah did submit a plan. The new deadline is now May 12 of 2005. The purpose of submitting a plan: if there are any disputes (interference) on the use of these 4.9GHz, the region will handle them. The FCC will defer to the regions for these dispute resolutions. If Utah (Region 41) would like to make changes to our current plan, we can re-submit our plan prior to May 12. Otherwise our current plan will still be valid.
The latest version can be viewed at:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UWIN_80211_workgroup/files/

VII. Next Meeting

Friday, May 13, 2005
10:00 am - noon
Wasatch County Search and Rescue
1361 S. Highway 41 (just past Arby's)

Phone Bridge: 1-877-581-9247
Participant Code: 604370

http://uwin.utah.gov